

# BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS

## HARVARD UNIVERSITY

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, JULY 31, 1941

VOL. 10, No. 2

### A NEW SPECIES OF ASPASIA FROM PANAMA

BY

CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH

IN the course of identifying an interesting collection of orchids from Darien Province, Republic of Panama, the following noteworthy species of *Aspasia* was discovered.

#### *Aspasia pusilla* C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.

Herba epiphytica, pusilla. Caules congesti, supra pseudobulbosi, parte basali vaginis distichis conduplicatis imbricatis vestiti. Pseudobulbi valde complanati, saepissime plusminusve ellipsoidei, unifoliati. Folium lineare vel lineari-ellipticum, acutum, subsessile, in sicco valde chartaceum. Inflorescentia lateralis, brevis, laxe pauciflora. Flores pro genere parvi. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-oblongeolatum, acutum. Sepala lateralia elliptico-oblonga, acuta, dorso carinata. Petala sepalo dorsali similia, leviter obliqua. Labellum columnae medio adnatum, patens, suborbiculari-obovatum, marginibus (parte basali cuneata excepta) irregulariter crenulatis. Columna perbrevis, crassa, clinandrio magno concavo denticulato.

Plant epiphytic, small and slender for the genus. Roots fibrous, glabrous, numerous. Stems crowded, consisting of shortly stipitate pseudobulbs of which the slender lower portion and base of the pseudobulb are invested by distichously imbricating conduplicate sheaths,



the upper sheath (on either side of the pseudobulb) being elongate and leaf-bearing; pseudobulbous portion strongly complanate, narrowly cylindric to ellipsoid, unifoliate, up to about 5 cm. long and 1.5 cm. wide in the dried specimen. Leaves linear to linear-elliptic, up to 17.5 cm. long and 1.3 cm. wide, narrowed to an acute apex, cuneate-narrowed to a subsessile base, thickly chartaceous when dried. Inflorescences one or two to a pseudobulb, lateral, short but surpassing the pseudobulb, up to about 9 cm. tall, very loosely 4- to 6-flowered, with the slender rachis more or less flexuous above. Floral bracts broadly ovate, acute, cucullate, spreading, up to 7 mm. long, membranaceous. Flowers very small for the genus, with spreading segments and with subfleshy sepals and petals. Dorsal sepal free, oblanceolate-elliptic, about 13 mm. long and 4.8 mm. wide, acute, 5-nerved, dorsally subcarinate. Lateral sepals elliptic-oblong, about 13.7 mm. long and 4 mm. wide, acute, 5-nerved, dorsally carinate along the middle. Petals similar to the dorsal sepal, obliquely oblong-oblanceolate, sharply acute, about 12.1 mm. long and 4 mm. wide, 3- (or indistinctly 5-) nerved. Lip adnate up to about the middle of the column; suborbicular-obovate in outline, spreading, about 11 mm. long and 12 mm. wide when expanded, broadly cuneate toward the base, lightly retuse at the apex, with irregularly crenulate margins except near the base; lamina slightly concave near the base with a small forcipate pubescent callus. Column short and stout, about 5.7 mm. long at the back, with a pair of prominent porrect obliquely triangular fleshy arms just above the junction with the lip; clinandrium large, with high erect and irregularly denticulate margins. Anther obliquely semiorbicular-conic, papillose. Pollinia two, complanate-ovoid.

*Aspasia pusilla* is remarkable for its small size and slender proportions. In having a dorsal sepal which is



quite free from the column and a lip with a cuneate base, it simulates the Brazilian *A. lunata* Lindl., but it appears to lack Central American allies.

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, Darien Province, Chepigana District, Cana-Cuasi Trail (Camp 2), epiphyte "4 to 8 inches high", at 2000 feet altitude, "outer petals greenish-yellow, maroon spot at base; lip white or yellow centrally gamboge, marked with maroon", March 11, 1940, *M.E. & R.A. Terry 1502* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 59568; DUPLICATE TYPE in Herb. Field Museum No. 1034500).



### EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

ASPASIA PUSILLA *C. Schweinf.* 1, plant, natural size. 2, flower from front, twice natural size. 3, column and lip from side, natural position, four times natural size. 4, basal portion of lip, showing callus, four times natural size.

*Drawn May 1941 by G.W. DILLON*



PLATE I

